Misuse of petroleum products

197. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of increase in the use of petrol and petroleum products in the country annually;

(b) whether Government have made any assessment to know the areas of misuse of petroleum products in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to stop such misuse?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The percentage increase in the consumption of petrol and petroleum products in the country during the last three years has been as follows:

Figures in%

Product	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Petrol	8.0	4.3	4.7
All Petroleum products	3.7	3.5	3.7

(b) to (d) Misuse of Petroleum Products could take place on two counts, *i.e.*, adulteration and diversion of subsidized products for unauthorized use. The Government is aware of the attempts by unscrupulous elements to misuse kerosene, naptha and solvents in adulterating auto fuels, and to divert PDS kerosene and domestic LPG for unauthorized use.

The action taken by the Government/Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in containing the menace of adulteration including diversion of PDS kerosene, include the following:—

(i) Under the Control Orders issued by the Government to prevent fuel adulteration, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in adulteration. Government have taken up this matter with all the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations to step up inspections/surprise checks to ensure that adulteration-

related activities are minimized and to exercise vigil/ conduct inspections at various private firms, factories, processing units, etc., under their jurisdictions so as to identify the perpetrators of adulteration and take stringent action against them within the available legal framework.

(ii) OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices, MDG provide for penalty of termination of dealership in cases of adulteration being established.

(iii) As advised by the Government, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have created a separate wing to report to a Director other than Director (Marketing), which will oversee and monitor all activities and operations to curb adulteration and specify norms and guidelines in this regard.

(iv) Keeping in view the misuse/diversion of SKO for adulteration, the import of SKO by private parties has been canalized through OMCs.

(v) OMCs have introduced new tamper proof tank-truck locking systems to prevent en-route adulteration by transporters.

(vi) Information Technology (IT) solutions like monitoring movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS) and monitoring level of fuel tanks in Retail Outlets through retail automation are being introduced.

(vii) Branding of Retail Outlets and third party certification of Retail Outlets have been initiated by the OMCs.

(viii) A pilot project has been approved for strengthening the distribution network of PDS kerosene with a view to ensuring that this product is made available to the targeted consumers and is not diverted for adulteration.

Measures to check adulteration are kept under continuous review of the Government.

As regards, containing the diversion of domestic LPG for unauthorized use, OMCs have taken the following steps:

(i) Field officers have been advised to intensify surprise checks and inspections on LPG disributors/commercial establishments.

(ii) Supplies to LPG distributors are regulated in line with the customer population and per-capital consumption of that market based on last year's sale for the same month.

(iii) State Government authorities are requested to render assistance in curbing misuse of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes.

(iv) Press advertisements are released regarding misuse of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purpose.

(v) Action against erring distributors is taken in line with the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

Exploration of petroleum and natural gas

198. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATRUAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing petroleum and natural gas exploration in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of sites where oil/gas has been struck afresh; and

(c) the target production of oil and gas during the Tenth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) (a) The state-wise details of exploratory efforts made by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and Private/Joint Venture companies is annexed as Statement. (*See* below).

(b) During 2004-05, ONGC have made 4 discoveries, one each in the States of Assam and Gujarat and one each in the West Coast & East Coast Offshore areas. OIL have made 3 discoveries in the State of Assam. Private/Joint Venture companies have made 10 discoveries-2 in Rajasthan, 1 in Gujarat and 7 in the Eastern Offshore area.

(c) The total target production of crude oil and natural gas during the Tenth Five Year Plan period is 169.38 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) and 176.50 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM) respectively.